

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077747

20

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA:SSOBER

----- 010166

R 051908Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: NEPALESE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY ATHERTON: INDO-US RELATIONS

1. NEPALESE AMBASSADOR YADU NATH KHANAL CALLED ON NEA  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON APRIL 3. LORTON SAT IN.

2. MOST OF CONVERSATION WAS ON MIDDLE EAST (MEMCON  
FOLLOWS) BUT KHANAL ALSO SAID HE WANTED TO EXPRESS  
APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING RECEIVED  
DURING HIS WASHINGTON TENURE. ATHERTON EXPRESSED OUR  
REGRET AT SEEING HIM LEAVE AND SAID WE VERY MUCH APPRE-  
CIATED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. KHANAL ALSO EXPRESSED  
THANKS FOR "VERY GOOD" CORONATION DELEGATION AND SAID  
KING BIRENDRA HAD BEEN PLEASED.

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PAGE 02 STATE 077747

3. ON INDO-U.S.RELATIONS, KHANAL WONDERED WHETHER

LIFTING ARMS EMBARGO HAD HAD AN EFFECT ON EFFORT TO EVOLVE MORE NORMAL RELATIONS. WE RECOGNIZED INEVITABILITY OF ADVERSE INDIAN REACTION, ATHERTON REPLIED, BUT HOPED OUR EFFORTS OVER THE LAST YEAR HAD LAID STRONG ENOUGH FOUNDATION TO SUSTAIN RELATIONSHIP. WE BELIEVE GOI TRIED TO AVOID OVERREACTION

AND SEES LONG-RUN INTEREST IN BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE FULLY INTEND IMPLEMENT ARMS POLICY SO AS NOT TO DISRUPT PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN OR TO STIMULATE AN ARMS RACE IN THE AREA. WE WILL NOT BECOME THE MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIER TO PAKISTAN AGAIN.

4. IN RESPONSE TO KHANAL QUERY WHETHER PRESIDENT STILL PLANNED TO VISIT INDIA AND IF SO, WOULD NEPAL BE INCLUDED ON ITINERARY, ATHERTON SAID AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR VISIT TO INDIA REMAINED BUT NO DATES HAD BEEN SET AND IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO PLAN PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL THIS FAR AHEAD. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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